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PRESS RELEASE

JOINT U.S.-BANGLADESH MILITARY EXERCISE CONCLUDES IN CHITTAGONG

CHITTAGONG, NOVEMBER 12 -- U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty attended the graduation ceremony today for 59 new Naval Commandos at the Bangladesh Navy Special Warfare and Diving Salvage Center (BN SWADS) at the BNS Issa Khan Naval Base in Chittagong. These Commandos received specialized training during the U.S.-Bangladesh "Tiger Shark" exercise, which concluded today. During this exercise, units from the Bangladesh Navy and the U.S. military trained on counter terrorism and combating piracy, maritime, and coastal threats. The new Bangladesh Naval Commandos are the direct descendents of the "Nau Commandos" who fought bravely during Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War. The Ambassador reaffirmed the United States Government's support to the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to counter terrorism, piracy, maritime, and coastal crime.

A strong Bangladesh Naval Commando unit will protect the people of Bangladesh as well as help ensure regional stability, deter terrorists, and contribute to international maritime security and peacekeeping in the future. The United States Government will continue to assist the Government of Bangladesh develop this professional, elite force. This training demonstrates the United States Government's commitment to Bangladesh and to regional security by promoting military-to-military relationships throughout Asia and the Pacific.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: http://dhaka.usembassy.gov